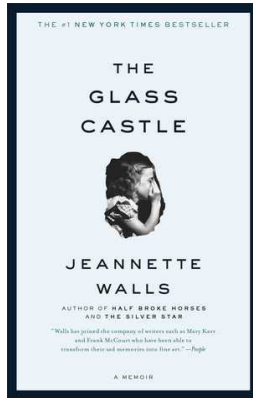


Maricopa Public Library - Genre Reader's Guide

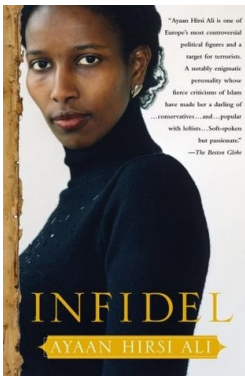


Tough as Nails—Memoirs by Strong Women



The Glass Castle By Jeanette Walls

The Glass Castle is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another, and eventually found their way to New York. Their parents followed them, choosing to be homeless even as their children prospered.



Infidel By Ayaan Hirsi Ali

In this profoundly affecting memoir from the internationally renowned author of "The Caged Virgin," Ayaan Hirsi Ali tells her astonishing life story, from her traditional Muslim childhood in Somalia, Saudi Arabia, and Kenya, to her intellectual awakening and activism in the Netherlands, and her current life under armed guard in the West. One of today's most admired and controversial political figures, Ayaan Hirsi Ali burst into international headlines following an Islamist's murder of her colleague, Theo van Gogh, with whom she made the movie "Submission."



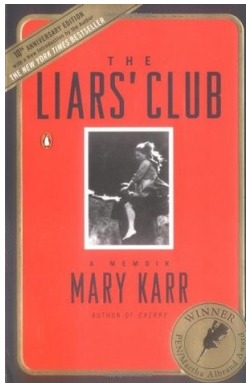
Fun Home By Allison Bechdel

This breakout book by Alison Bechdel is a darkly funny family tale, pitch-perfectly illustrated with Bechdel's sweetly gothic drawings. Meet Alison's father, a third-generation funeral home director, a high school English teacher, an icily distant parent, and a closeted homosexual who, as it turns out, is involved with his male students and a family babysitter. Through narrative that is alternately heartbreaking and fiercely funny, we are drawn into a daughter's complex yearning for her father. When Alison comes out as homosexual herself in late adolescence, the denouement is swift, graphic — and redemptive



Persepolis By Marjianne Sartapi

Persepolis is the story of Satrapi's unforgettable childhood and coming of age within a large and loving family in Tehran during the Islamic Revolution; of the contradictions between private life and public life in a country plagued by political upheaval; of her high school years in Vienna facing the trials of adolescence far from her family; of her homecoming--both sweet and terrible; and, finally, of her self-imposed exile from her beloved homeland. It is the chronicle of a girlhood and adolescence at once outrageous and familiar, a young life entwined with the history of her country yet filled with the universal trials and joys of growing up.



The Liar's Club, Cherry and Lit By Mary Karr

This trilogy of memoirs follows poet Mary Karr from her childhood in rural Texas into her remarkable adolescence and through her college years into adulthood, parenthood and struggles with faith and addiction. Her ability to form events and feelings into exquisite prose draws you into her life so completely you won't be able to read just one. She elevates the memoir as a genre. *The Liar's Club* covers her early childhood. *Cherry* relates her rebellious teen years, and *Lit* covers the remarkable journey into and through some of adulthood's most dangerous pitfalls.

